

Sx^wuytn-Kaniksu Connections Project

October 20&22, 2020

Recreation Proposed Actions

Collaborating for Recreation:

Snowmobilers

OHV Riders

Motorcycle Riders

Mountain Bikers

Back Country Horsemen

Hikers

Hunters

Fisherman

Kayakers



Priority Rec Projects by Ranking

1. **Bead Lake Loop Trail**
2. **Bead Lake Loop Trailhead (North)**
3. **Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Connectors: Browns Lake/CCA Roads**
 - a) Cee Cee Ah – Browns Creek: Connects the Browns Lake Road System with the CCA Road System through a series of Forest Service Roads.
 - b) Cee Cee Ah Creek Road (NFS 1920): Currently open to highway legal vehicles only. Connects to IPNF
 - c) Browns Creek Road (NFS 1921): Currently open to highway legal vehicles only.
 - d) Browns Lake Road (NFS 5030): This road is currently open to highway legal vehicles only.

Priority Rec Projects (con.)

4. **Mill Creek Road (NFS 1200):** Currently open to highway legal vehicles only.
5. **Cooks Lake Road (NFS 5015):** Currently open to highway legal vehicles only. We would also recommend that Cooks Lake Campground be opened to OHV use.
6. **Bead Lake Boat Launch Dock:**
7. **Geophysical – Indian Creek Connector:** 1/2 mile of new trail This trail is restricted to non-motorized recreation.

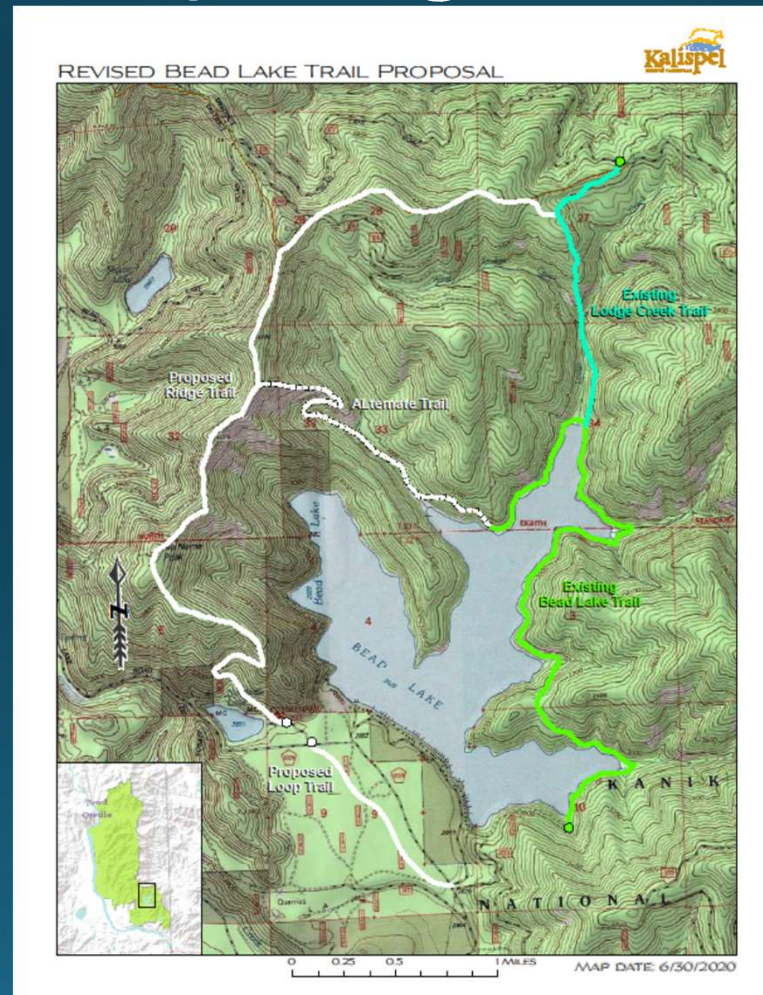
Priority Rec Projects (con.)

8. Bead Lake Launch Parking Expansion:

9. Mill Creek Parking Lot Expansion:

10. Ridge Trail: Focus on section from trailhead north of Bead Lake to the trailhead at North Baldy. *Broad support but of developing ranked lower due to the complexity*

Bead Lake Loop/Ridge Trail Revisions



Effects of the Proposed Action

Table 23. Effects of the proposed action and existing condition by recreation resource element

Resource Element	Resource Indicator	Measure	Existing Condition (rounded to nearest mile)	Proposed Action
Summer Recreation	Designated non-motorized trails	Total miles of NFS non-motorized trails	17	27
Summer Recreation	Designated OHV routes	Total miles of designated OHV routes	58	78*
Trail access	Trail accessibility	Change to trail system improvements	0	5

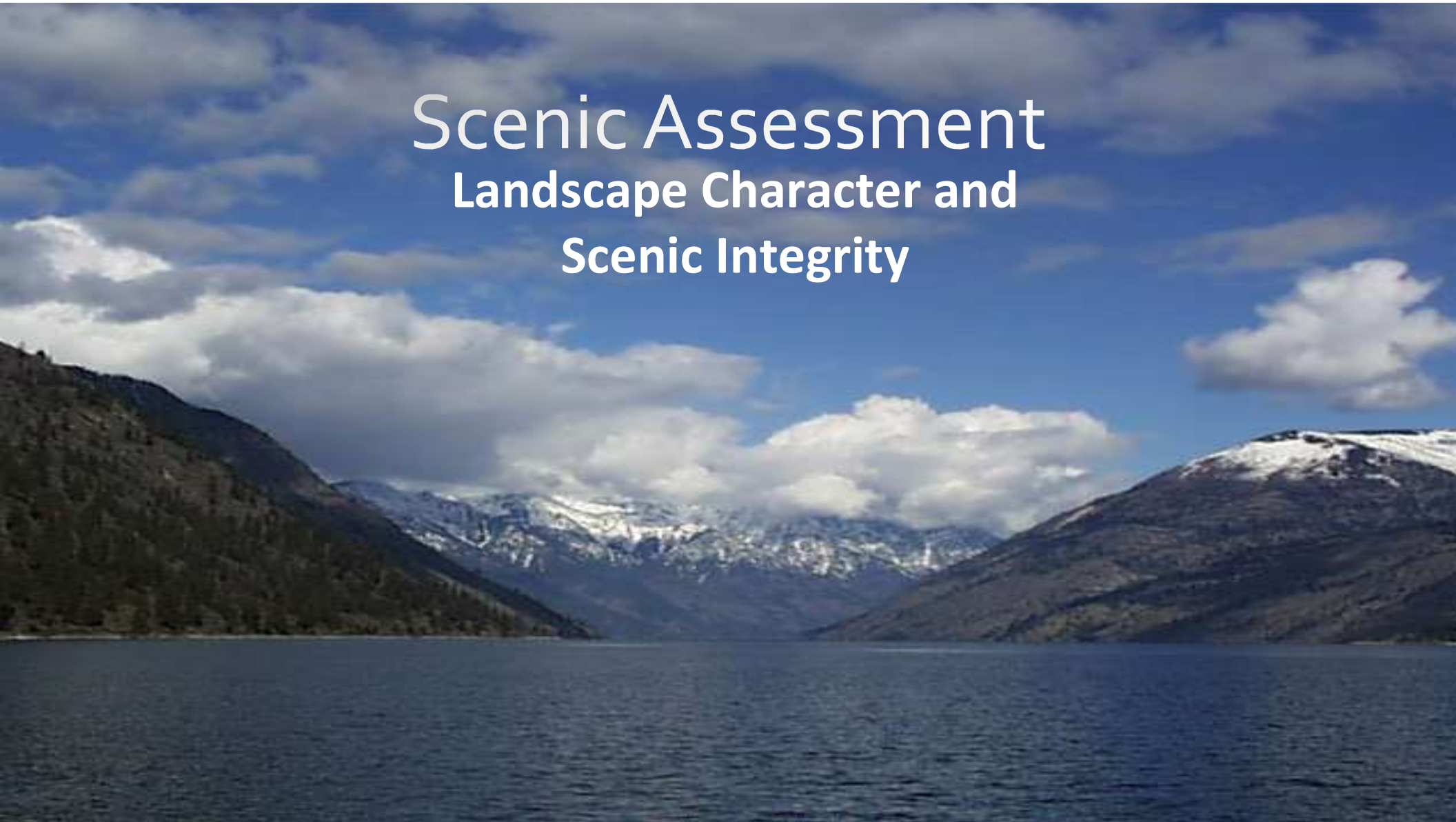
* This includes designating ~19 miles of NFS roads and ~1 mile of trail for use by OHVs.

Projects included in the proposed action that would provide improvements to the recreation-based access infrastructure are:

- Enlarged parking area at the Bead Lake boat launch
- Enlarged Parking area at the Mill Creek snowmobile parking area
- New trailhead at No-Name Lake
- New dock adjacent to Bead Lake boat launch
- New snowmobile route segment along southwest side of Bead Lake (to move OHV use off County Road 30290)

Scenic Assessment

Landscape Character and Scenic Integrity



Visual Considerations

- Landscape Aesthetics and Scenery are a natural resource, achieving high scenic quality continues to be an important issue, integrating design arts into project planning is key.
- A range of Scenic Quality Objectives are assigned for all National Forest System Lands.
- Scenery Management recognizes and addresses natural disturbance regimes such as fire.
- Places importance on establishing which scenic qualities the public most value, and identifying ways to maintain or improve on those qualities (including human modified environments that are valued for their scenic qualities).

Colville Forest Plan Scenic Integrity Objectives

The Forest Plan has designated 11 Concern level 1 and Concern level 2 road corridors that travel through the project area and approximately 3 miles of the North Pend Oreille River Scenic Byway Hwy 20 is in the project area

Cross walk between the new SMS language and VMS terms

SMS (SIO's)

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- Unacceptable Low

VMS (VQO's)

- Preservation
- Retention – Concern Level 1
- Partial Retention – Concern Level 2
- Modification
- Maximum Modification
- Unacceptable Modification

Concern Level 1 and 2 Travel Routes

Concern Level 1 Areas and travel routes where the users have a high concern for scenic quality.

1. Bead Lake C3029
2. Le Clerc (South) C9305
3. Le Clerc (North) C9325
4. Browns Lake FR 5030
5. Kings Lake C3389
6. North Pend Oreille River Scenic Byway

Concern Level 2 Areas and travel routes where the users express a moderate concern for scenic quality.

1. Bead Lake C3029
2. Bear Paw C3318
3. Best Chance C3407
4. South Baldy FR 5080-306
5. Boswell Kings Lake FR 5000
6. Cooks Lake FR 5015

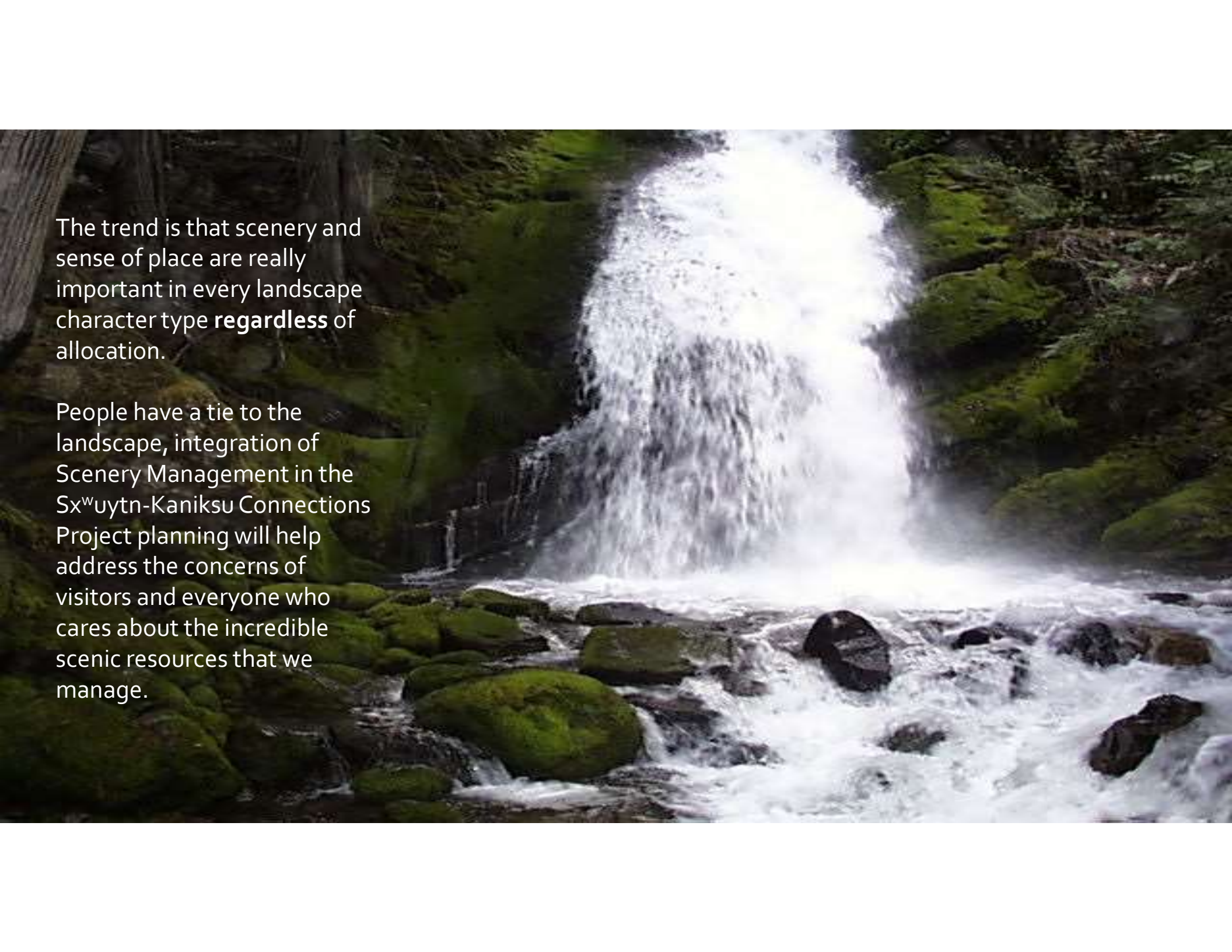
Natural Appearing to Slightly Altered Landscape Character is

the main scenic quality objective prescribed to scenic landscape travel routes, with range of scenic integrity levels from High to Moderate – or Retention To Partial Retention VQO's Cultural values and features along with ecological characteristics describe the image or “sense of place” of an area.



Existing Scenic Integrity Definitions

Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	Definition
VERY HIGH (Preservation VQO)	Unaltered. Landscape is intact with only minor changes from the valued landscape character associated with significant scenic landscapes. This SIO is typically (but not exclusively) associated with specially designated areas such as wilderness or other designations that imply the landscape is natural-appearing and only ecological changes occur
HIGH (Retention VQO)	Appears Unaltered. Management activities are unnoticed and the landscape character <i>appears</i> unaltered.
MODERATE (Partial Retention VQO)	Slightly Altered. Management activities are noticeable but are subordinate to the landscape character. The landscape appears slightly altered.
LOW (Modification VQO)	Moderately Altered. Management activities are evident and sometimes dominate the landscape character but are designed to blend with surroundings by repeating line, form, color, texture of landscape character attributes. The landscape appears altered.
VERY LOW (Maximum Modification VQO)	Heavily Altered. Management activities create a “heavily altered landscape.” Changes may strongly dominate the landscape.
UNACCEPTABLY LOW (for inventory purposes only, not a management objective)	Unacceptable Modification. Management activities create an extremely altered landscape. Deviations are extremely dominant and borrow little if any form, line, color, texture, pattern or scale from the landscape character. Landscapes at this level of integrity need rehabilitation.

A photograph of a waterfall in a lush, mossy forest. The water is white and turbulent as it falls over dark, moss-covered rocks. The surrounding vegetation is dense and green, with moss growing on the rocks and the ground. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

The trend is that scenery and sense of place are really important in every landscape character type **regardless** of allocation.

People have a tie to the landscape, integration of Scenery Management in the Sx^wuytn-Kaniksu Connections Project planning will help address the concerns of visitors and everyone who cares about the incredible scenic resources that we manage.